help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides the Normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) seventeen vocational Rehabilitation centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following:

(a) Allotment of vending stafls, kiosks and petty shops;

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme;

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

Statement-II

Concessions to the relative/escorts of the handicapped

1. *Travel Concessions:*

Travel by Rail: Escorts accompanying the blind/orthopaedically and mentally handicapped persons are eligible for 75% concession in the basic fare. This is in addition to the concession for the disabled persons.

2. *Educational Allowance:* Reimbursement of tuition fees in respect of physically handicapped and mentally retarted children of the Central Government employees has been enhanced to Rs. 50/-.

3. *Income Tax Exemption:*

Deduction in respect of medical treatment of Handicapedd dependents: An assessee who had incurred any expenditure for medical treatment (including nursing) of any handicapped dependment suffering from permanent disability (including blindness/mental retardation) having the effect of reducing his capacity for normal work, is eligible for deduction of Rs. 15,000/- from his income.

Proposals for setting up Mini Steel Plants in U.P.

*297. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI NAGMANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from private sector for setting up mini-steel plants in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total capacity of estimated steel production therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. An entrepreneur wishing to set up an iron or steel unit does not require approval of Government for industrial licence unless the plant is proposed to be located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 Census and is also not located within the areas designated as 'industrial area' by State Government before July 25, 1991.

The term 'mini steel plant' generally refers to units of relatively smaller capacities manufacturing steel through the electric arc furnace route. As per the information available, no proposal is pending for grant of an industrial licence for setting up an electric arc furnace based steel plant in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Area Under Flood Water In Haryana

*298. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area still under flood water in Haryana and whether Government propose to give compensation to the owners of such land which will not be brought under cultivation due to flood water;

(b) the number of families which have been uprooted/migrated from their villages on account of flood water and whether any arrangement for their rehabilitation has been made by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) According to information received from the Government of Haryana, about 14800 hectares of land is still under flood water in the State. The State government have decided to extend financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 7500/- per hectare to farmers whose land is rendered uncultivable in the Rabi Season due to standing flood water, provided the land was cultivated during the last Rabi Season.

(b) and (c) The State Government provided accommodation in temporary shelters and relief camps to about 1.50 lakhs uprooted people. After dewatering operations carried out on a large scale by the State Government and receding of the water, most of these people have returned to their homes. The State Governemnt provide assistance to the affected people for their rehabilitation.

Damage caused to Orissa Irrigation Projects Due To Rains and Floods

*299. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the irrigation projects damaged in Orissa by recent rains and floods;

(b) the steps taken for the proper repair and restoration of those projects; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Cyclonic storm in Orissa resulted in heavy rains and floods from 10th to 12th November, 1995 causing damage to the following irrigation projects:—Delta; Stage-I and II, Pitamahal, Haladia, Baladia, Salandi, Salia, Kuanria, Boudha-Budhiani, Pilasalkhi, Hirakud, Anandapur barrage, East Canal and Rushikulya system.

(b) and (c) The State Government has reported that they have commenced repair and restoration of these irrigation projects. Repairs to the damages which occureed in the above irrigation projects have been estimated by the State Government as about Rs. 3.28 crore. Under the National Fund for Calamity Relief for the Flood Calamity in Orissa during November, 1995, Centre has provided Rs. 25.75 crore for rescue, relief and emergency repairs of damaged works which include the above irrigation structures. The Centre has also released the Central contribution of Rs. 34.69 crore for 1995-96 under Calamity Relief Fund and an additional Rs. 9.19 crore as first instalment of Calamity Relief Fund of 1996-97. These funds can also be used for repair and restoration of the above projects.

Agitation By Employees of IARI

*300. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether group B, C and D employees of Indian Agricultural Research Institution are on agitation for a long time;

(b) if so, the details with background thereof;

(c) whether the aggrieved employees have held demonstration at certain places in Delhi during their 'Direct Action' Programme;

(d) whether Government propose to resolve the issues of agitation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?